

KENNY CHAPMAN: My name is Kenny Chapman. There is so many things I'd like to bring up and comments. And as MR. Secretary said, a number of questions that we have. And I was waiting for everybody else to get done and then I was going to get up. Since I'm jumping up kind of soon, it will fall short of some things I want to say. However, I think, like MR. Nertoli was talking about regards the funding formula, there is this idea of going to the new funding formula, or what do you call that now, the methodology. I think it's going to kind of hurt some of the tribes, especially the smaller tribes, especially because of the money that's being allocated. But I think the other topic that I was thinking about in regards to the funds for each program now -- as a matter of fact, I spoke to MR. Secretary Bost at Las Vegas in regards to not having enough funds to make some of these programs. Now, if I'm not mistaken, he talked about we need to work together. Okay. In order for us to work together, we've got to have the money to be able to come together, to work things out, to make it a good program. I think at the time, he said they weren't cutting the funding, however I beg to differ that, but the funding was not being cut or lowered in any way. But yet we have a hard time, some of us, our programs are having problems getting to some of these conferences and meetings so we can get together and work as a team. I have always heard this in the Food Distribution Program, they said, work as a team; get on that train; don't get left behind.

But if we don't have the money to have it we are not going to work as a team. Another thing I always have a problem with in regards to the food and nutrition, is the safety of that food. I'm an advocate of organic farming. I'm a farmer. I'm a rancher. When I first got into farming, I did a lot of what everybody else was doing to make ends meet. And I was using a lot of spraying, insecticides, herbicides, and then I realized that all my life in my part of the country, some of the birds I used to see and hear them sing in the spring are no longer around because of all this spray, and the wildlife is dying away. I believe there is a big difference in the nutrition part of the Food Distribution Program in regards to organic as opposed to chemical farming. I know I tried to bring this up once before at the nutrition meeting in Washington DC, but I kept running into a brick wall. I was wondering maybe they don't want to hear it. I know it's a political problem, because the farmer makes money on what they make. However, I know that the yield -- I don't do any spraying anymore, and I know the yield is down, but if everyone would do it, the yield is down the price and corn and beans are going to come up.

Right now we've got, the only way you make it is if you have a thousand acres of beans and a thousand acres of corn; only way you can make it in regards to farming. Trying to get small farmers to continue, but how can that happen when you have got to have that, that kind of acreage to farm to make it. I'm fortunate enough to have a job besides farming, so it's not so bad with me. But those that don't have a job on the side, it's very difficult. I think you are choking off the small farmers by allowing them to spray. If they would spray, then the price of corn, you don't need that many acres to make a living. That's another thing I thought I would bring up to the USDA. I can't think of any other way to make it in regards to making a living on the farming. I like the idea that we can go and do this farming on our own, without having to have a job on the side. I know that some of these things that we all need to look at in regards to food safety, with anything you spray it in the ground it will come up in the plant. If you get soybeans, corn, alfalfa, cattle eat it, chickens eat it, it's in the beef. If you didn't have these things you wouldn't need to have a commercial to sell

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beef, "Beef, it's what's for dinner." You wouldn't need that. Years ago when I was growing and didn't spray, you didn't have to have commercials to sell beef. Beef tasted good, smelled good. But because of all the chemicals, it don't. You have to have commercials to sell beef. Same thing with poultry, turkey they eat whatever is sprayed in there, goes up into the plant, they eat. So; with that, I hope that something will open our eyes to some of the things that should be done with regard to USDA nutrition and safety. I want to thank you for having this opportunity to say a few things, and I hope that maybe one day we can see fit where we don't have to do any of that stuff that's killing. not only our land, but eventually it will get into our water supply and we won't have anything.